

through a network. The remote control device could be used in place of a keyboard and/or mouse, which may be easier for children, seniors, and/or disabled users. The software associated with the direct-select keys and the navigation keys could also provide parental control and/or other controlled access to web content and/or other
5 media. Since many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A control system comprising:

5 a transmitter for transmitting command signals to a media control system that executes machine instructions associated with media content, wherein the machine instructions can be selectively associated with the command signals;

10 a direct-select key in communication with the transmitter and having a property that is replicated in an icon on a display of the media control system, wherein the property associates the direct-select key with the icon on the display such that activation of the direct-select key causes the transmitter to transmit a first command signal to instruct the media control system to initiate an operation that is
15 selectively associated with the icon; and

a navigation key in communication with the transmitter, activation of the navigation key causing the transmitter to transmit a second command signal to instruct the media control system to perform a navigation operation that is
20 defined by the machine instructions such that the navigation operation will be the same for any of a plurality of media control systems which access the machine instructions.

2. The control system of Claim 1, wherein the transmitter comprises one of an infrared transmitter and a radio frequency transmitter.
3. The control system of Claim 1, wherein the property is at least one of a shape and a color.
4. The control system of Claim 1, wherein activation of the direct-select key causes the transmitter to transmit the first command signal to instruct the media control system to initiate one of a menu, a media asset, a change in a setting, and a navigation operation.
5. The control system of Claim 1, wherein the navigation operation comprises one of a back operation to a prior section of content, a repeat operation to a beginning of a current section of content, a forward operation to a next section of content, and a home operation to activate a prior level menu.
6. The control system of Claim 1, wherein an additional command signal can be selected to be transmitted with each of the first command signal and the second command signal for those media control systems that require the additional command signal.
7. The control system of Claim 1, further comprising a memory storing a plurality of selectable sets of command signals that correspond to a plurality of media control

systems, wherein the control system can be set to use one of the plurality of selectable sets for transmitting the first and second command signals.

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8. The control system of Claim 1, wherein the machine instructions conform to a digital versatile disc (DVD) specification.
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9. The control system of Claim 1, wherein the control system replaces a native remote control device that was designed specifically for use with the media control system and which includes predefined keys, which when activated, causes predefined command signals to be transmitted to the media control system to perform predefined operations.
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10. The control system of Claim 1, further comprising a housing that is sized and shaped to be held with one of one and two hands and wherein the transmitter, the direct-select key, and the navigation key are exposed through orifices in the housing.
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11. The control system of Claim 1, further comprising at least one of:
additional direct-select keys and additional navigation keys such that a total number of keys is within a number permitted by a DVD video specification for programmable number keys; and

a dedicated key that activates a predefined operation of the media control system.

12. A method for controlling operations associated with electronic media content, comprising:

5 providing a control device that communicates with a media content access device, wherein the control device includes:

a direct-select key associated with a first command signal that can be communicated from the control device to the media content access device upon activation of the direct-select key and wherein the first command signal corresponds to a non-reserved first programmable command signal recognized by the media content access device; and

10 a navigation key associated with a second command signal that can be communicated from the control device to the media content access device upon activation of the navigation key and wherein the second command signal corresponds to a non-reserved second programmable command signal recognized by the media content access device;

15 displaying an icon that shares a property of the direct-select key and that is dynamically associated with an operation of the media content access device;

performing a direct-selection operation with the media content access device if the first command signal is detected by the media content access device as a result of activation of the direct-select key on the remote control device; and

5 performing a navigation operation with the media content access device to navigate to a desired portion of the electronic media content if the second command signal is detected by the media content access device as a result of activation of the navigation key on the remote control
10 device.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the direct-select operation comprises one of accessing a menu, accessing a media asset, changing a setting, and navigating to a portion of the electronic media content.
14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the navigation operation
15 comprises one of a back operation to a prior section of content, a repeat operation to a beginning of a current section of content, a forward operation to a next section of content, and a home operation to activate a prior level
20 menu.
15. The method of Claim 12, wherein the property is at least one of a shape and a color.
16. The method of Claim 12, wherein the direct-select operation and the navigation operation are implemented

with machine instructions that conform to a digital versatile disc (DVD) specification.

5 17. The method of Claim 12, further comprising dynamically associating the icon with a different operation of the media content access device after the direct-select operation is performed.

18. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting an additional command signal before performing one of the direct-select operation and the navigation operation.

10 19. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:
displaying instructions to a user to enter a code value with the remote control device to set the remote control device to transmit the first command signal and the second command signal in conformance with the media content access device;
15 detecting a test command signal from the remote control device within a predefined period; and

providing a success message to the user if the test command signal is detected within the predefined period.

20 20. A machine readable medium storing data and instructions that cause a media content access device to perform the operations of:
displaying an icon that shares a property of a direct-select key of a control device;

dynamically associating the icon with a direct-select operation associated with electronic media content stored on the machine readable medium;

performing the direct-select operation with the media content access device if a first command signal is detected by the media content access device as a result of activation of the direct-select key on the control device; and

performing a navigation operation with the media content access device to navigate to a desired portion of the electronic media content if a second command signal is detected by the media content access device as a result of activation of a navigation key on the control device.